

ROKOSCH *QHR*

GRANDSTAFF *CG*

THOMPSON *at*

CHILCOTT *of*

DRISCOLL *LD*

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Members Present.....Commissioner Jim Rokosch,
Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff, Commissioner Alan Thompson, Commissioner Greg
Chilcott and Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll

Date.....August 20, 2007

Minutes: Beth Farwell

Commissioner Grandstaff attended fire safety meeting at USDA.

Commissioner Rokosch attended Deputy Labor Negotiations.

Commissioner Grandstaff attended 9-1-1 Labor Negotiations.

The Board met with Dave Bull and Cass Cairns from the Forest Service for a fire update.
Ron Nicholas and Eric Hoover from DES were also present.

Dave gave an update for the Rombo Mountain Fire, Sawmill Fire (Wyman 2), and the
Rat Creek Fire. He stated they have issued Stage 2 evacuation for the Northeast side of
the Rombo Mountain Fire. Dave pointed out on a map to the Board the areas the fire has
expanded. Brief discussion followed regarding fire fighting tactics being used on the
Rombo Mountain Fire.

In other business, the Board met for Air Quality issues with DEQ. Present were Robert
(Bob) Jeffrey and Debra Wolfe from Montana Department of Environmental Quality,
Environmental Health Director Lea Jordan, Morgan Farrell, City of Hamilton Mayor
Jessica Randazzo and several citizens.

Debra gave a brief overview of the past meeting. Bob gave a presentation regarding the
current air quality in Ravalli County. He first discussed Ambient Air Quality Standards.
There are two types of Ambient Air Quality Standards. The primary standard is to protect
human health and the secondary standard is to protect public welfare (e.g. crops,
buildings and visibility). Bob discussed current PM 2.5 NAAQs.

Particulate matter is a complex mixture of extremely small solid particulates and drops of liquid in the air. Bob explained how the data is collected and processed to obtain the PM levels in Ravalli County. He discussed the daily PM2.5 BAM averages are affected by wildfire smoke. He also included the source of contribution estimates in Hamilton.

Bob stated the information presented can be accessed via the web @ www.deq.mt.gov/AirQuality/AQinfo.asp. Commissioner Rokosch asked about developing a clean-up plan. Bob replied they have little “start off” small steps. The actual clean-up plan is due to EPA on 4/27/13 as part of the NAAQs Compliance Review.

Commissioner Rokosch asked how the composition is analyzed. Bob replied the sample undergoes chemical analysis for 52 elements and trace compounds unique to that source. Then it is compared to the contents of the filter. He discussed carbon 14 analysis. The filter cannot tell the difference between carbon from wildfires and carbon from human fires (wood stoves).

Commissioner Rokosch asked how they separate out the particulate generated inside and outside of the county. Bob replied those particles, when cooled from night air, can measure air flow within the valley.

Debra stated people are concerned about road dust. Local Control programs which consist of State and Federal Laws; what to consider, and developing a local program will be discussed. Debra reviewed the U.S. Clean Air Act with the Board and the Clean Air Act of Montana. It consists of the Board of Environmental review, Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Ambient Air Quality Standards, Emission standards, Local air pollution control programs and Compliance and Enforcements. Congress directs States to research & plan, monitor air pollution and adopt and enforce rules. Legislature directs the Board to adopt those rules to control statewide air pollution and the Board allows local government to adopt rules to control local air pollution. Some of the local county programs are Cascade, Lincoln, Missoula, Yellowstone, Flathead, Lewis & Clark, and Butte-Silver Bow.

Debra stated the program includes administrative support, air quality monitoring work, compliance and enforcement duties. The Local Program Element Options are open burning regulations, woodstove regulations, paving, sanding, street sweeping requirements (dust abatement), stationary source permits, vehicle maintenance requirements, and emergency episode rules. DEQ is available for assistance when implementing any of these options.

Lea asked about the woodstove options. Debra replied in Lincoln County, it's mandated if you have an old stove in your home you are required to replace it with a “clean burning” stove. Debra stated in Missoula County as soon as you sell your home, the stove has to be removed if it wasn't a new pellet stove. Brief discussion followed regarding suggestions for Ravalli County.

Commissioner Grandstaff asked how the issue of wood stoves could be enforced. Debra replied it is up to the Board how it will be handled. She suggested the Sheriff's Office be the enforcer. She discussed the incentive "swap out" program. Bob stated how well this program has worked in the past. Senator Burns redirected some of the budget for the swap out program (phase 2), and approximately 1300 woodstoves in Libby have been changed out.

Mayor Jessica Randazzo asked if woodstoves are the major factor in the Hamilton source of particulate matter. Debra replied residential wood combustion is 80% of the Hamilton PM2.5 source and woodstoves are a major contributor, actually more than wildfires. Brief discussion followed regarding a working relationship between the City and the County to address the Air Quality issues. Commissioner Driscoll felt it was important to have city/county continuity on this matter.

Debra explained the "Fuels for Schools" program. Her views are cautious regarding moving material from a dispersed burning area into a boiler of a school in a central town location. Bob discussed the review and scrutiny a facility must go through. He stated it is to everyone's advantage to stay in compliance.

Morgan asked if it is a requirement to create a local entity. Debra replied a County or Municipality is required to implement an Air Quality program. Commissioner Grandstaff asked in order to implement an Air Quality District, does the Board have to prove administrative support. Debra replied there must be a show of administrative support. Morgan asked if they could do a three year plan. Debra replied yes, the Board can decide how it happens and whether it's long range or short range.

Commissioner Grandstaff asked if the incorporated towns have to sign off on the plan, and what would happen if they did not. Debra indicated they would be excluded and they will lose highway funding.

Mayor Randazzo asked what was needed to move forward. Debra stated they will work with Lea. Bob stated normally this is run through the local County Board of Health. Subcommittees are utilized for the different areas. Debra stated the sooner they can start working together, the sooner they can create a timeline. The county might have to put some capital up front.

Lea stated the county does not have building codes or other mechanisms of enforcement, and it seems as those would need to be implemented first. Lea asked if there are grants or funding to implement them. Debra replied funding is a big thing because the funding coming out of the EPA has been cut. The grant funding picture is not good and the county should not count on it. The only funding you can count on is your own. Lea stated they would be starting from ground zero at this point, not to mention no one has the time to commit to implementing such a program. Cost would be the major concern with the county budget being as it is.

Mayor Randazzo asked about the timeline. Bob replied there is an 18 month deadline. Debra added as soon as the Board approves it, it will be implemented. Discussion followed.

Debra suggested since EPA grant funding has been cut, the county can raise revenue through vehicle registration. Morgan stated while in Helena, they had an excellent presentation of the steps that were taken.

Mayor Randazzo asked if you could put a temporary program in place first then refine it later. Debra replied she would caution against it as the EPA will look at what will be "set in stone" rather than something that will have to be modified several times.

Commissioner Rokosch stated the Commissioners are currently in budget deliberations and there is no funding available at this time. Mayor Randazzo asked if the funding is built into the plan. Debra replied she is not exactly sure. Civil Counsel Alex Beal stated the vehicle increase is difficult to implement. He thinks it may even be a legislative issue. Bob replied he believes it would be a ballot issue.

Lea asked if the state will review the program funding. Bob replied they will look at the funding options. Morgan suggested contacting Missoula County for a boiler plate of their program. Alex suggested a mill levy to raise the money.

Lea asked how they should follow up on this meeting. Bob replied working with the Board of Health. Lea suggested meeting with the Board of Health to discuss health effects for a basis of fact in order to support the program. She suggested having another presentation for the Board of Health. Debra concurred with Lea. Commissioner Rokosch suggested Commissioner Grandstaff be a point of contact and explain the budget issue with funding. Mayor Randazzo suggested Lea and Debra get together and create a timeline. She also offered City representation for the program.

Bob stated the American Lung Association would be a great resource for possible grant funds. Mayor Randazzo asked if there are any public health grants. Commissioner Grandstaff replied she will ask the Public Health Nurse for other possibilities.

Commissioner Rokosch thanked both Debra and Bob for the presentation on behalf of the Board.

In other business Commissioner Chilcott had a conference call with MACo Board of Directors.

Commissioner Chilcott attended Road Department Labor Negotiations during the later part of the day and into the evening.